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City of Barrie

Minutes - Final

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 11, 2021 | **4:00 PM** | **Virtual Meeting**

For consideration by the Finance and Corporate Services Committee on February 23, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, C. Kenwell at 4:04 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present:	5 -	Chairman C. Kenwell Councillor R. Thomson C. Moran H. Morgan L. Pope
Absent:	1 -	D. Taylor

STAFF:
Committee Support Clerk, T. Maynard
Disability Management and Accessibility Specialist, C. Dillon.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "A"

PRESENTATION CONCERNING WHEELCHAIR SWING PROPOSAL

Lorrie Rimmer introduced Marc Rimmer and their son Finnley who is four years old. Lorrie Rimmer provided an outline of the Platform Wheelchair Swing Proposal.

Ms. Rimmer discussed that the City of Barrie currently does not have platform wheelchair swings in any of their public parks. She felt that it was a necessity for those children in wheelchairs like her son Finnley.

Lorrie Rimmer explained her son Finnley's disabilities. She mentioned that when he was younger he was able to use the baby swing at the park and this was his way to engage and socialize with other children but now he has outgrown the baby swing. She discussed the challenges with using the five-point harness swings as Finnley grows.

She commented that other municipalities such as the City of Hamilton and the Town of Midland have taken the steps to install platform wheelchair swings in their public parks.

Ms. Rimmer provided a background of the "I Have Resolve" charity whose mandate is inclusivity in the community. She discussed the fundraising initiatives held by the charity which included 32 minor hockey players based out of Halton Hills who held an 18 hour gaming event to raise funds to put towards helping a child with inclusion needs. She advised that the charity event had raised a total of $14,000 and chose to select one recipient from Halton Hills and Barrie. She expressed her excitement that the charity selected Finnley for this honour to receive assistance.

She advised that the family decided that since Finnley enjoyed swinging in the park that the money raised from the charity should be put towards helping the City of Barrie to purchase a platform wheelchair swing for a public park.

In closing, Ms. Rimmer mentioned that the platform wheelchair swing would not only benefit her son but the community as this would provide an opportunity for other children who are wheelchair bound to begin the enjoyment of swinging on a swing set in a public park that would make a more inclusive community.

The Committee asked a number of questions of Ms. Rimmer and City staff and received responses. There were questions asked related to donations for the platform wheelchair swing.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "B"

PLATFORM WHEELCHAIR SWING PROPOSAL

That staff in the Development Services and Operations Departments investigate the feasibility of installing a platform wheelchair swing in a public park, based on the funding secured by local recipients, and as presented at the Committee's meeting held on February 11, 2021 and report back to the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

This matter was recommended for consideration (Section "B") to Finance and Corporate Services Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 2/23/2021.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "C"

ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT SHOPPING PLAZA

C. Dillon, Disability Management and Accessibility Specialist advised that a resident from Ward 9 addressed concerns about accessibility at the plaza located at 649 Yonge Street. Ms. Dillon provided an overview of the residents concerns such as curb depressions at the plaza. She mentioned that the resident advised that they have a spouse with mobility issues who has had difficulty accessing the stores within the plaza on Yonge Street such as the Shoppers Drug Mart.

Ms. Dillon advised that during the timeframe the plaza was built that it met the Accessibility of Ontario Disability Act (AODA) standards. C. Dillon advised that the resident was looking to obtain a letter of support from the Committee so that it could be forwarded to the property and business owners within the plaza to suggest accessibility improvements.

The Committee discussed and agreed that a letter of support be sent to property and business owners in the plaza to suggest accessibility improvements. Ms. Dillon advised that she would draft the letter and will circulate to the Committee for their review and feedback.

2020 MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN STATUS UPDATE

C. Dillon, Disability Management and Accessibility Specialist provided a status update concerning the 2020 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. Ms. Dillon advised that she will be preparing a Memorandum to Council concerning the 2020 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. She noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has limited the amount of items to report regarding the Plan. The Committee discussed the Plan and provided their feedback to Ms. Dillon. Ms. Dillon advised that she will forward a draft of the Memorandum to the Committee for their review and feedback.

2021 NATIONAL ACCESSABILITY WEEK

The Committee discussed potential ideas related to the 2021 National AccessAbility Week C. Dillon, Disability Management and Accessibility Specialist announced that 2021 National AccessAbility Week takes place annually between May 31, 2021 to June 4, 2021. Ms. Dillon provided her suggestions on events for the 2021 National AccessAbility Week. C. Dillon commented that she has been working with staff in the Legislative and Court Services Department to try to include past members of the Committee as part of a related event.

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

CHAIRMAN